

to the hospitals. Before I came to the Senate in 1997, I operated a small business with my wife, and I wish the Lemkes the best of luck in this new endeavor.

Again, I congratulate SMSgt. Lemke for his selection as one of the Air Forces' 12 Outstanding Airmen for 2006.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I rise to salute Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, which celebrated its 100th anniversary on December 4, 2006. Founded at Cornell University in 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha is the Nation's oldest African-American fraternity. In addition to Martin Luther King, Jr., the fraternity also proudly claims notable American leaders such as former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, former Senator Edward Brooke, Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, and countless others.

From advocating for the rights of African Americans to encouraging young people to attend college, Alpha Phi Alpha has played an important role in our country. Most recently, the fraternity successfully pushed to create a national memorial for Martin Luther King, Jr., on the National Mall in Washington, DC. I send my best wishes upon this important milestone, and I am certain that the fraternity will continue its rich legacy of service and social justice in the next 100 years.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On October 11, 2006, in New York, NY, Michael Sandy, a gay man, was attacked by four men. During the attack, Sandy was struck by a car while trying to flee. According to police, Sandy went to meet a man that had contacted him through a singles website. They drove to a parking lot where three other men were waiting, the group subsequently attacked and beat Sandy. Police believe that these men have used the Internet to find victims numerous times in the past.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

PORTLAND—UNWIRED

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my home State of Oregon and the city of Portland. Thanks to the visionary leadership of Portland city officials and their plan to "Unwire Portland," the forecast in Portland today is "overcast, with free broadband access for everyone." You see, there is a new cloud covering the city—a Wi-Fi broadband cloud.

Residents, businesses, and city officials will be able to access the Internet anywhere under the 134 square mile Wi-Fi cloud, download content as quickly as 1 megabyte per second, and upload at speeds reaching 256 kilobits per second. And they will be able to do it all for free.

The Wi-Fi network will not only offer city residents and businesses a new affordable choice for broadband access, but will also improve the efficiency of city government operations. Public safety and other field-based employees will now be able to wirelessly download and upload reports and data from the field.

The public / private partnership that was struck by the city to realize this accomplishment perfectly illustrates how municipalities, free of State restrictions, can improve access to broadband opportunities for its citizens while improving city services.

The Wi-Fi cloud over Portland also reminds us that the future competitiveness of our country depends upon ubiquitous broadband deployment.

Congress must enact legislation that clearly articulates a national broadband policy and provides affordable broadband access for all Americans. I look forward to working with each of you, my colleagues, toward this endeavor.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, crime in our Nation is increasing. Too often guns are involved. In 2005, our country experienced a surge in murder and robbery rates. Unfortunately, that surge has continued in 2006. The Police Executive Research Forum, a think tank that serves many of the Nations' police departments, examined the murder and robbery statistics of 53 U.S. cities for the first 6 months of this year. In their report, "A Gathering Storm: Violent Crime in America," they report that murder has increased in 26 of the 53 cities, and robberies have increased in 43 of the 53 cities.

In Boston, after a 19.6-percent increase in murder in 2005, the first 6 months of 2006 produced another 27.5-percent increase. In Memphis, murder increased 27 percent in 2005 and 43 percent in 2006. Police officials attribute these severe increases to increases in gang activity, violent offenders returning from prison and kids who have easy access to guns.

In September, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that in 2005 vio-

lent crime increased 2.3 percent, murder and non-negligent manslaughter increased 3.4 percent, robbery increased 3.9 percent, and aggravated assault increased 1.8 percent from 2004.

What may be even more dramatic is the fact that these statistics are not exclusive to larger cities. Smaller communities that typically had relatively low amounts of crime have also been affected. In the first 6 months of 2006, robbery was up 47 percent in Rochester, NY, 37 percent in suburban Montgomery County, MD, 36.8 percent in Minneapolis, 36 percent in Milwaukee, and 27 percent in Norfolk, VA. This translates into thousands more people being robbed, often at gunpoint.

According to a poll conducted by the Washington Post and ABC News, 61 percent of Americans favor stricter gun laws. This is up from 57 percent in 2002. The 109th Congress's record on gun safety is not one of which to be proud. It has been a "do nothing" Congress. I will continue in the 110th Congress to work to pass sensible gun safety legislation to help make our communities safer.

THANKING UTAH VOLUNTEERS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to all the men and women in Washington County, UT, whose hard work and diligence have made and are making the Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm such a success. These dedicated volunteers are helping to protect and display an asset of great value not only to Utah but to the world.

The history of this discovery is fascinating. A few years ago, retired optometrist Dr. Sheldon Johnson was preparing his farm site for development, and as he turned over the earth, he discovered tracks of early residents of Washington County—very early residents, in fact. Dinosaur tracks dating back to the Jurassic period of history were uncovered. They are being preserved and are bringing economic and historic benefit to St. George, Washington County, UT, and the Nation. To date, visitors from 68 nations and all 50 States have visited the site.

I want to recognize and thank Dr. Sheldon and LaVerna Johnson who discovered the tracks and then donated the land to preserve this heritage. The Johnsons have made it all possible. Linda Sappington, Washington County volunteer coordinator, aided by volunteer supervisors Kae Crabtree and Carole Chadwick, began in February 2000 to bring together individuals who cared about the tracks and who were willing to give of themselves to help preserve the find.

I also want to recognize and thank Mayor Dan McArthur, the city of St. George, Washington County, and the Utah State Legislature for their efforts. Past and present museum staff Theresa Walker, Andrew R.C. Milner, Janice Evans, Bob Kroff, and Anneli Segura have put forth countless hours